

Youth Crime Watch Newsletter

What is YCW? How does it work?

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As I interviewed several people about this program, I began to realize that many people either have never heard of this program or they have heard of it and they do not have a clue what it is about. The YCMA is a youth-led mission trying to create a crime-free, drug-free environment. The Youth Crime Prevention Watch program offers young people an active role in reducing crime in their neighborhoods and in their schools. This program challenges young people to reduce crime, drug use, and violence. It also helps youth as well as adults recognize that anybody can and must be part of a "civic problem solving community, partnerships development, and crime preven-

tion." The Youth Crime Watch of America program brings youth of all ages and backgrounds together to identify, address, and correct problems unique to their schools and communities. If you would like more information on this program or if you are interested in joining visit the website at www.ycma.org or call 068-27-6143.

What do you think the YCW is? (Due to force protection reasons, the names and pictures of the following interviewees have been changed and/or removed.)



"I have never heard of this program before but I think it basically helps kids stay out of trouble and get more involved in the community."



"I've heard of this program but I don't know what it's about."



"It's probably a program to keep kids in school and off of the streets.

No I have never heard of this program before."

Youth Violence: A Few Facts, Causes, Symptoms and Signs

Facts about Youth Violence

- * In 2002, more than 877,000 young people ages 10-24 were injured from violent acts.
- * Homicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10-24.
- * In 2001, 5,486 young people ages 10-24 were murdered. (Average of 15 daily.)
- * 9% of students reported being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend. (Nationwide.)
- * More than 50% of school-associated violent deaths occur at the beginning, end or during lunch at school.

Symptoms & Signs

- * Significant weight loss
- * Defends alcohol and drug usage
- * Unexplained mood swings
- * Poor memory
- * Makes excuses for drug usage
- * Runs away from home
- * Frequent illnesses
- * Uses obscene language
- * Lies or is caught in lies frequently.

Causes of Violence: According to Kids

- * Substance Abuse
- * Gangs
- * Unemployment
- * Weapons
- * Poverty
- * Peer Pressure
- * Broken Homes
- * Bad Neighborhoods
- * Intolerance/Ignorance

Interested in becoming involved with SNAP? If so, call 068-27-6143

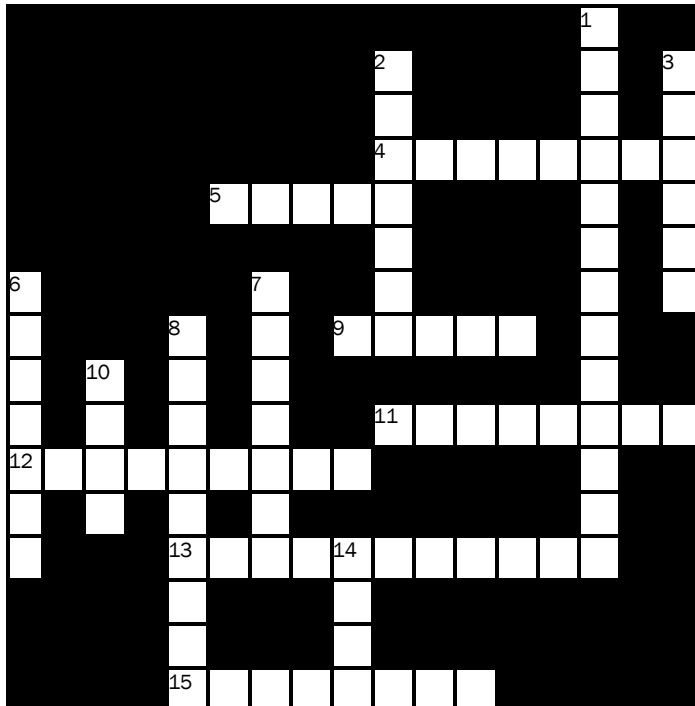
Safety While You Are Out

I know most of you kids out there chat online with people you don't know. It's fun meeting new people right? Well, however much fun this may be, it can also be very dangerous. When on the internet remember and follow the tips below, ensuring your safety as well as the safety of your family and friends.

- ◆ Never disclose your military affiliation to chatters.
- ◆ Be careful and responsible.
- ◆ Never give out your name, address, phone number, or where you go to school.
- ◆ Never send a picture of yourself or anyone without your parents' permission.
- ◆ Never arrange to meet another computer user face-to-face.
- ◆ Remember that people on the web can be as dangerous as strangers on the street.
- ◆ Never open an email from some-

one you do not know.

- ◆ Carry and know your home phone number, address, and all emergency numbers.
- ◆ If someone makes you feel uncomfortable for any reason, discontinue the chat.
- ◆ Never answer any emails that cause you to feel bad and/or uncomfortable.
- ◆ Never answer any e-mails that make you feel bad and/or uncomfortable.
- ◆ Never talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from them.
- ◆ Always remain cautious when out with friends or family.
- ◆ Do not take short cuts unless you know for a fact that they are safe.



The Snap Summer Rap

Summer is the coolest time of year, so listen carefully to these tips right here. Don't drink and drive and when out in the sun, wear lots of sun screen so you don't get burned. Carry a cell phone with you at all times so your parents can check to see if everything is alright. Watch what you do and watch what you say, so you can keep yourself and others very, very safe. Common sense is vital in any public place so be aware of your surroundings. Okay, this is the most important tip right here, this the key to the best summer of the year. Emphasize good safety habits to your family and friends and enjoy your summer vacation. Until next time, this is the end.

Fill out the crossword puzzle on Safety to the bottom left-hand side of the page. (Hint: Refer to the safety tips.) Have fun!

Across

4. Always remain _____ while hanging out.
5. Do not take _____ cuts unless you know that they are safe.
9. _____ give anyone your name, address, or phone number or tell them where you go to school.
11. Never disclose your _____ Affiliation.
12. Always carry _____ numbers with you.
13. Be _____.
15. Someone you or your parents do not know well or trust is a _____.

Down

1. If someone makes you feel _____ for any reason, walk away and tell an adult.
2. Never send a _____ or yourself or of any in your family unless given permission by your parents.
3. Never _____ any messages that make you feel bad or uncomfortable.
6. Know your _____.
7. Check with your _____ first if someone offers you a ride or a gift.
8. People on the web can be just as _____ as strangers on the street.
10. Never arrange _____ another computer user face-face with parent permission.
14. If you get an e-mail from someone you do not know, do not _____ it.